

The Anti-Slavery Reporter

and

Aborigines' Friend.

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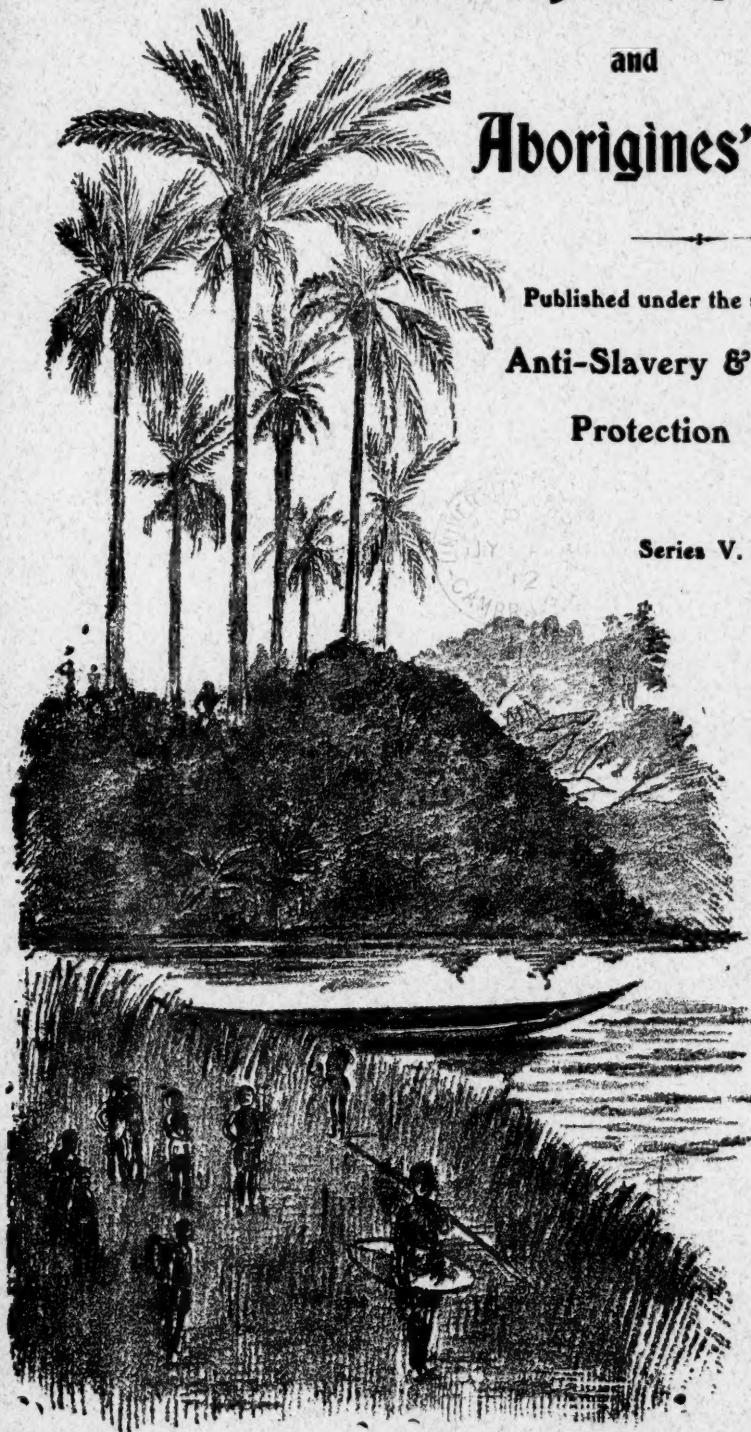


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We have since been informed that the decree of the Superior Court in favour of the accused has been revoked by the Supreme Court of Lima.

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**British
Columbia
Indians.**

WE referred last year to the efforts which were being made by the "Friends of the Indians of British Columbia" to bring the rights of the Indian tribes before the Imperial and Dominion Governments for settlement, and to the resolutions which were passed by the Committee of our Society commending the work of the Rev. A. E. O'Meara in this country. Mr. O'Meara has again been in England, and reports that, in spite of the continued refusal of the Provincial Government of British Columbia to recognise that there is any issue before them to be adjudicated upon, the interviews which the friends of the Indians have had with the Canadian Ministers, and the attitude of the Colonial Office, give reason to hope that real progress is being made, though made slowly, to secure the future well-being of the 25,000 Indians concerned.

**The Rt. Hon.
John Burns
on the treat-
ment of
native races.**

SPEAKING at the African Society's dinner on May 16th, Mr. Burns said, addressing himself especially to the young men present:—

"When I first went to Africa, I was determined to be upon good terms with the natives—and the keynote of my relation to them, whether it was at Old or New Calabar, Egga, Akassa, Bonny, or Lokoja, was based upon a sentence from Sir Francis Bacon's writings,—'The more noble the soul is, the greater its compassion hath.' And we can only hold Africa by our compassion for the natives, by our patience, by our sense of justice, by our commanding fair-play, by being the model and exemplar, relying less upon force than upon noble example; and if Nigeria is to be what Sir George Goldie predicts it will be, and what you, Sir Frederick Lugard, will do everything within the power of your great capacity to attempt, it will be due to the fact that men like Goldie and Lugard have taken that noble phrase of pity for the natives which I have quoted from Sir Francis Bacon as the keynote of everything they do in the name of the British people, for the British race, and for the British Empire in all the relations we may have with the races whom we govern and control. That this may be the spirit of every young man who goes to Africa I sincerely trust. I never had to raise my hand once, never had to use a firearm or any force whatsoever. I have got nothing but admiration and affection for the stately Yoruba and the industrious Kroo-boy; they earned my gratitude, they deserve my affection, and it is in that spirit we can conquer the affection, loyalty, and support of the native races of Africa. It is the only way in which we can keep it, and I sincerely trust no other way will ever be attempted."

**Lectures
and
Literature.**

WE would remind our subscribers and friends that no time should be lost in arranging meetings for the autumn and winter if they desire to avail themselves of the services of either Mr. or Mrs. Harris. The story of their journeys in West Central Africa is in many respects a thrilling one, and brings home to everyone the great work which has been committed to our Society.

We would also ask our friends to secure the literature of an interesting nature recently published by the Society as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Harris' travels. Among the Congo Reports we would ask special attention to Part VI., dealing with the Concessions granted to Messrs. Lever Bros., Limited, and also to Mr. Harris' pamphlet on Portuguese Slavery, reprinted from the *Contemporary Review*, which subject is being brought prominently forward at the public meeting under the presidency of Lord George Hamilton, which will have been held before this issue appears.

By the time this is published, the Society's Exhibition of **Photographic** Photographs at the Royal Colonial Institute will have **Exhibition.** closed. The photographs are a selection of some 500 pictures taken by Mrs. Harris during her long and arduous travels in West Central Africa. They comprise forest and river scenery, various stages in the production of gum copal, rubber, cocoa and other tropical exports, customs of the Africans, types of chiefs, witch-doctors, etc. The photographs are classified in sections, and descriptions typed on each card, and visitors to the exhibition have been brought into closer touch with West Africa by inspecting these pictures than by the reading of many books.

The Committee is prepared to send this collection for exhibition to different parts of the country on the sole condition that every care is taken with them. It is thought that churches, chapels, literary and scientific institutes, etc., may be glad to avail themselves of this means of extending the knowledge of West Africa amongst their friends and supporters. The suggestion has also been made that friends of the Society might arrange drawing-room exhibits, and, in such event, Mrs. Harris would, if possible, be present to give any further explanation that might be necessary.

In reply to a letter conveying the thanks of the Committee **A Tribute** for services kindly rendered to Mr. and Mrs. Harris during **from** their recent travels, a well-known native in West Africa **West Africa.** refers in the following appreciative terms to the work of our Society:—

“You have forgotten that the debt of gratitude we Africans owe to your Society cannot be amply paid, and whatever little we may hope to do is but a poor endeavour in marking our high appreciation of the efforts of your Society on behalf of our benighted country and people, and to your Society we are in duty bound ever to be grateful.”

The Annual Meeting.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Tuesday afternoon, April 23rd.

The President, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, occupied the chair, and those

present included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Henry Cotton, Sir W. P. Byles, M.P., Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff and Mr. E. Wright Brooks, Treasurers; Mr. F. W. Fox, Vice-Chairman; Professor Westlake, K.C., Revs. F. B. Meyer and R. C. Gillie, Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Mr. P. A. Molteno, M.P., Mr. A. MacCallum Scott, M.P., Mr. C. Roden Buxton, Mr. W. H. Brown, Mr. C. E. Maurice, Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Harris, Organizing Secretaries, and the Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said that a number of their friends were obliged to be absent that afternoon owing to important and attractive topics that would come up for discussion in the House of Commons.

He felt sure he could take upon himself, on behalf of all present, to extend their congratulations to the Rev. John and Mrs. Harris on their return. The more they knew about the journey made by them, the more they realized what a thoroughly enterprising journey it had been, and how much courage, energy and devotion it had demanded.

No one who read the Society's report could but realize how much reason there was for its work, and there was abundant work before them.

As the world went on, it became more and more contracted, and the civilized and powerful races were coming more and more into contact with the weaker races, and so it was increasingly incumbent upon them to see that that contact was carried on on Christian and philanthropic lines. They must have noticed the increased value of tropical products—india-rubber, cocoa, palm-oil, etc.—and that should remind them of the different ways in which the weaker races were oppressed, and exploited for the benefit of those who desired to acquire those products. Governments should see that all dealings with weaker races were carried out properly, and as they realized that Governments were largely influenced by public opinion, the value of a society like theirs came prominently before them. Information often came in a more or less scrappy way, and a good deal of concentration and consideration was needed to deal with it. He thought a remarkable instance of the need and value of considering information that came to hand was that of the maltreatment of the natives in the district at the head of the affluents of the Amazon. In this connection they were indebted to the Editor of *Truth* for first bringing the facts into prominence. At first the assertions were stoutly denied, but the Commission sent out by the Peruvian Government, followed by an English Consul, who was sent out by our Government, had confirmed and corroborated them; in fact, there was reason to believe the original information fell short of the actual truth.

They had reason to believe they had the strongest sympathy of the heads of the Colonial and Foreign Offices, and the Governors of such great dominions as Canada and South Africa had shown their desire to carry out the progress of their countries with full justice towards the weaker races.

A constant source of trouble was the desire to acquire land. A great deal of native cultivation was carried on under the tribal tenure, and it had been far too easy for settlers to say tribal tenure was no tenure at all. Yet tribal tenure was very common amongst our ancestors in England, and also in other countries of Europe, so they had no right to regard it as no tenure at all. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Fowell, in conclusion, after stating that he wished to leave ample time for them to hear statements from Mr. and Mrs. Harris, formally moved the adoption of the report, and the re-election of the Committee and Officers.

The Rev. F. B. MEYER, D.D., in seconding the motion, said he supposed that his position there was largely due to the fact that their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, in their kindness, had said he had been a strong formative influence in their lives.

The report of a Parliamentary Debate which had taken place a month or so ago in the House of Lords had filled him with considerable pleasure because of the testimony that had been given by two distinguished men as to Mr. Harris personally, and especially to his impartiality. They were all aware that it was easy to bring charges against a Society like theirs, and charges which were not always founded upon the actual facts of the case; therefore he had read the words used by Viscount Morley and by the Archbishop of Canterbury with thankfulness. Viscount Morley had said of Mr. Harris that his authority was accepted, and not unjustly, by the Congo Association. The Archbishop of Canterbury had also paid a striking tribute to the general character and impartiality of Mr. Harris. He thought the Society had been well advised when they sent Mr. and Mrs. Harris to ascertain the exact facts.

Mr. Meyer paid a tribute to the devotion of Mrs. Harris, not only to the cause, but to her husband during the expedition.

A great many of those present had read until their blood had tingled the stories that came not only from West Africa, but from the sources of the Amazon. As one read these awful stories it was hardly possible to realise that these atrocities were perpetrated by men who had a semblance of manhood. He felt there were no words sufficiently strong to express our reprobation of the atrocities perpetrated on the child races in the Amazon basin. He hoped that with the help of those present, and their sympathisers outside, they might take heart of hope and pursue their crusade, never ceasing until justice had been established as between the white man and the native. It surely was clear to them all that though those native races seemed to be remote from our civilisation, and hidden in their dense forests, and in the regions of the origins of their mighty rivers, it was impossible for a single man, woman, or child to suffer as those people had been condemned to suffer, without to a certain extent deteriorating the whole human race, and making a shadow come upon the face of man.

In conclusion, Mr. Meyer said he could not but think that when the years and the centuries had past, and those races had become great and strong—and there was no knowing to what they might come—in those days when those native races shall have grown as much in civilising influences as we ourselves have grown, then, he thought, this Society, and the names of those who had been associated with it, would not be forgotten in the great structure of a redeemed humanity. (Applause.)

The Resolution that the report be adopted was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Sir ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, who was received with applause, said he considered it a great honour to be allowed to associate himself with the remarks that had been made as to the noble character of the journey undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. Harris, and to emphasise the delight they all felt in seeing them back safe and well. (Hear, hear.) He felt sure that their journey would in the future take a historical form because it had given them definite information upon which, no doubt, the policy of this country would in the immediate future be modelled.

Mr. Morel was not present, but Sir Arthur knew that he was saying what Mr. Morel would have wished to say, when he trusted no premature action would be taken in the matter of the recognition of the annexation of the Congo. (Hear, hear.) He knew with what interest and delight Mr. Morel had read the letters of Mr. Harris, and how fortified he had been by the conclusions which, from independent evidence, he had already formed in his own mind; and he knew that Mr. Morel regarded it as a most serious danger that now at the end of this long battle that had cost him and others so much, they should be coaxed or cajoled into giving way on the essential point, viz., that they must have some guarantee that the Congo would not relapse into that state of barbarism from which work, principally on this side of the Channel, had lifted it. (Hear, hear.) That was a most urgent and serious question, and he waited with the greatest interest to hear Mr. Harris' views upon it, although he knew that they were, in the main, consonant with those of Mr. Morel.

The CHAIRMAN, having drawn attention to the fact that the question of the state of things on the Congo was to be considered by a conference between the Society and the members of the Congo Reform Association, called upon Mr. Harris to address the meeting.

MR. HARRIS' REPORT.

The Rev. JOHN H. HARRIS, who was warmly received, said: We are indeed happy to return to you to-day in a full measure of health and strength after a journey which, as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has said, has been accompanied by a considerable number of difficulties, and, as you may gather, has not always been of the most pleasant nature. During our

travels we have covered something like 5,000 miles of the hinterland of the African continent. Our journeys have taken us into Portuguese, German, Spanish, French, Belgian, and British Colonies, and by gathering information in those Colonies we were able to make a comparison with what was going on in the Congo Basin to-day. Those journeys have taken us through forests, over 1,000 miles on foot, and nearly 2,000 miles in tiny canoes, Once or twice we very much doubted whether we should be able to get back here again, particularly one night when we had to undertake the unprecedented task of going through what is known as the "Devil's Cauldron of the Congo" after the sun had set. Usually people hesitate to go through in the broad daylight, but circumstances drove us through there when it was quite dark, and at one time we feared we should never reach the land.

However, I think we can take as read, or understood, the difficulties and dangers of a journey like this, and proceed to the business before the meeting, which is that of a consideration of the situation in the colonies we have visited.

With regard to the Congo, it has been decided that no detailed statement should be made upon that situation to-day. That decision has been taken on account of the conference which has been summoned for May 1st. Both Mr. Morel and I feel strongly that we have arrived at a stage when the position should be regularised; when the Belgian Government should be informed quite frankly, but in perfect friendliness, because, after all—this is a point we are exceedingly anxious everyone should bear in mind—the work we have carried on from the beginning has always been in the truest interests of the Belgian nation. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, it is important that we should inform the Belgian Government, in a friendly spirit, of the terms upon which this country is prepared to recognise the transfer of the territory to Belgium. Sir A. Conan Doyle has called attention to the danger of extending that recognition before definite guarantees have been received. So far as our Society is concerned, I can say that we agree absolutely that guarantees must be provided upon fundamental issues before the recognition of this country is extended to the Belgian transfer.

I do not wish to enter into a full statement to-day; I merely want to remind you of one or two facts in the Congo situation. The fact which stands out above all others is this, that it would be a fairly easy matter, should circumstances arise, or if it were possible to see another King Leopold arising, it is perfectly possible to restore the old system to the Congo territories, I submit, and we shall submit, that is a situation which must be prevented. (Hear, hear.) We must secure to the Congo natives the certainty of enjoying the rights to the natural products of the country and to the disposal of the labour of their hands. More than that I will not say to-day.

Now there is in the West African Colonies one feature which has impressed us, and that is the growth of race prejudice; and you see that to-day wherever you go. We have travelled up and down the West Coast of Africa several times now, and the increase of race prejudice is one of the features which has forced itself upon us more than another in our journeys. It does seem to me that if that race prejudice is allowed to grow, more particularly in our own colonies, a very severe strain will be placed upon the loyalty of the natives in West Africa. I am sorry to say that the attitude of certain of the younger officials towards British merchants and towards native communities, is very different from that of ten or fifteen years ago. The only remedy which one sees for that condition of affairs is to give the native and the merchant communities, who, to say the least, are very important elements in our colonies, a greater share in the administration of these countries. It is a matter of great regret, and has been for a long time, to our Committee that the medical profession of the Gold Coast Colony should be subjected to such disabilities as prevail to-day. It is also a matter of regret to our Committee that one of our administrations on the West Coast has so far fallen, shall I say, from British ideals that it is possible for a paramount chief to be sent into exile, not only without any trial whatever, not only without any opportunity for defence; but, in spite of the fact that that old chief has been in exile now for over 12 years, and is to-day blind and absolutely decrepit, he has never heard the reason for his deportation. We hope that our Colonial Office officials will see their way clear to make an inquiry into a case of that nature; and also into the position of the medical profession in the Gold Coast.

I do want to say this, however, that in spite of these features which have caused us deep concern, the British administration constitutes a great example to all the other Powers in West Africa in its treatment of native races. But if that proud position is to be maintained, it is incumbent that we should watch more closely than ever certain administrative tendencies which seem to be the cause of that increase of race prejudice between natives and the white people. For, remember, the race prejudice which one notices on the West Coast, is unfortunately not confined to either one race.

Turning to the San Thomé-Angola question, or, as it is more popularly known, the cocoa slavery and slave-trade connected with the islands of San Thomé and Príncipe and the mainland of Angola, we are glad to report that some progress is being made. It is to the credit of the Republican Government that the official shipment of slaves from the mainland to the islands has, for the time being, ceased. (Hear, hear.) We can find no evidence at all that slaves have been sent to the islands for something like two years, sent, that is, within the knowledge of the Portuguese Government. There is only one reservation I would make, and it is this: we have undeniable information that a number of slaves have certainly been smuggled into the islands within the last six months; but I think we must give credit, and we

gladly give such credit, to the Portuguese Government for having put a stop to the official trans-shipment of these natives from the mainland.

Now this question has presented for years a two-fold aspect—the capture of the slaves on the mainland; the transport to, and the slavery on the islands. The slavery on these islands practically remains as it has been for a number of years. The process of the liberation and repatriation of those slaves is barely perceptible. I am aware, a number of those in this audience are aware, of a statement published in a British journal recently, that 30,000 slaves had been liberated owing the pressure of the British Government. Now that statement was made in a London paper on March 1st, two days before we left the island, and it was to the effect that these 30,000 slaves had been set free and had returned to their country. That statement is entirely untrue. Not 30,000, as reported from Lisbon, but only 381 slaves were liberated during the whole of the year 1911.

We saw, and discussed conditions with a large number of those slaves, both on the mainland and on the islands, and there is a fact here which I would rather like to impress upon this audience this afternoon, namely, that slavery is fairly general through the colony of Angola, it is not merely slavery on the islands, but on the mainland; and I do not know whether it is realized that to-day there are probably well over one million slaves in the West Central regions of Africa. When I say “slaves” I am not playing with the word; I do not mean the slavery which is sometimes attached to varying forms of contract labour, but I am speaking now of men and women, boys and girls, whose bodies are purchasable bodies, which, as a matter of fact, you and I could go and purchase if we liked. That is what I mean by slavery, and that is what I say exists in a great many of the regions in Central Africa, particularly in the Congo Basin itself. The Congo Basin is much larger than the Congo State. It extends to German territory in the east, and to German territory in the north-west. It extends into Angola, French Congo, and into part of British territory also.

Now the immediate question, it seems to me, before the Society is that of the liberation of the slaves on the islands of San Thomé and Príncipe. How many there are on these islands is a question which no one can answer exactly; but no investigator, no Government official, puts the number of those slaves at less than 35,000. Some, indeed, put the number as high as 50,000. Therefore, I think if we regard 35,000 to 40,000 as the probable number, we know for how many human beings we have to obtain liberty within the next few years. Since 1887 we have figures which shew that 65,000 slaves have been sold into those islands; or, expressed in figures sterling, something like £2,500,000 worth of human beings. One feature of the liberation of these slaves is this, that if a slave on the islands is sufficiently intelligent, and sufficiently in touch with the European situation to know that he can insist upon liberty, he gets it;

but there are a very few slaves in that position. Those who do know and insist, are subjected to cruellest of prosecutions; and I shall never be able to efface from memory the piteous condition of the slaves in Benguella who had been liberated and landed on the coast—slaves without a five reis piece in their possession; slaves who had spent, some of them, sixteen, seventeen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty years in slavery, yet not one of them had a penny piece with which to buy the necessary food to keep them alive. When I was at Benguella thirty-seven slaves were liberated and landed there. Of these thirty-seven, only four received any money whatever; thirty-three of them were penniless, and they were in the streets of Benguella begging for their bread. One old slave I saw outside a hut chopping sticks into small pieces which he was selling in the town



ANGOLA SLAVES ON SAN THOMÉ

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

in order to obtain food and medicine for which he was in great need. I was so distressed at the condition that I rather committed our Society in going to the Governor of the district, and pointing out to him the destitute condition of these slaves, said, "Sir, I am prepared on behalf of our Committee in London, to place at your disposal a sum of money by which you will be able to distribute the necessary food to these people. If you cannot accept the money, will you allow me to give it to the Protector?" Well, naturally he could not accept that money, though he thanked us for the offer. But it brings home to this meeting I think very clearly the condition in which these slaves are landed on the mainland of Africa. One of those poor fellows told me that when he insisted upon liberation they took his wife and children away from him and gave them to another

man on the plantation. And that is almost an invariable story from these slaves; if they insist on returning their wives and daughters are taken away from them and given to other slaves on the plantations. As one of those men was telling us how his wife and daughters had been taken from him, he broke down and wept and exclaimed, "White man, cannot you get my wife and children back for me?" An African seldom breaks down and cries in that manner unless he is profoundly moved.

Another man who had to leave his wife and child on the islands, had come originally all the way from Lake Tanganyika, and he told me how he had been driven, month after month, in the chain, right away from Lake Tanganyika to the port of Benguella, and there sold to work in the plantations.

I thought that one of the best means of assisting in the liberation of these people was that of taking down verbatim their own statements, and reading or publishing those statements to the philanthropic people of this country. I have a few here extracted from my diary just as I took them down, and I would like to call your attention to four or five of these:

"A man of about 30 years; born in the hinterland of Novo Redondo. He had served 16 years on the roça in San Thomé. Availing himself of repatriation, was sent away without his wife and two daughters. The wife had been compelled to take a fresh contract previous to the expiration of the husband's term." (Compelling them to take a fresh contract is merely a subtle form of keeping them in slavery.) "He had never received any pay until the change of Government." (We make that point because the planters all say these natives are paid wages.)

"Aged 30 years. Was sent to San Thomé as a small child slave, and practically spent his life on the roça. They tried to keep him, and he had to leave his wife and son in slavery at San Thomé when he was liberated."

"Native of Bihe, 25 years of age, had to leave his wife and son on San Thomé."

"A man of 20 years. Served on S . . . roça. Complained of excessive flogging. Tried to force him to re-contract, and because he refused robbed him of everything he possessed, leaving him only the clothes actually on his body."

"One of 20 years. Served 12 years on the roça. Became the domestic of the white man, later liberated."

"Man of 30 years compelled to leave his wife, and son aged 6."

"Another man, enslaved for 30 years. He came down from the interior with a trading caravan, and after selling his rubber to the white man went into the yard to sleep after getting drunk on the gin which the white man had given him, and fell to quarrelling and fighting, and in the mêlée unfortunately killed the white man's duck, and as he had no money to pay for the duck, he was sold to the planters of San Thomé, and the price of the duck was taken. After he arrived at San Thomé he obtained a wife who had already spent a

year or two there. He was compelled to leave her when he was liberated. He made the same complaint about flogging."

And so one could go on with the statements of the liberated slaves.

Here are a few statements, from a number I possess, of the slaves on the islands themselves. This, as you will realise, is an extract straight from my diary:

"Had a talk with an old man who had been enslaved on the islands for 30 years. He came from the upper Kasai in the Congo. Said he wanted to go home, but master had not yet freed him. The whole group of slaves round us said they wished to go home, but white man had not yet called them." ("Called them" is a term they use for freeing them.) "Before the advent of Republican Government, given no wages. Frequently beaten with a long stout cane; all appeared extremely sullen and servile."

There is a remarkable feature on those cocoa islands, as you walk round the plantations and along the roads, if you see a group of men coming you can tell in a minute whether they are slaves or free men. The free men, of whom there are a number on the island, stride along the roads and the pathways as if they had a right to be there. There is an elasticity of movement, and a brightness of countenance, and very frequently they are singing a song; but the slaves, generally speaking, walk on the side of the road, and sometimes in the gutter, and when they speak to you they will place their hands on their chests and bow in a most servile manner. Wherever you meet the slaves on the island, when you get home to them, when you touch their inner feelings, you realise how intense is their desire to return to their homes on the mainland.

We all agree—it is common ground between Government officials, planters and critics—that the slaves are well fed, fairly well clothed, and fairly well housed; but the planters themselves cannot realise—and I am sure the majority of them are honest in this—that human nature needs something more than food and raiment, that the priceless boon of liberty is something for which the human heart eternally craves.

My mind goes back to two incidents of those islands and one on the mainland. One day we were walking close to Katumbella where there are so many slaves; passing through the native quarter I looked very closely at each native, my object being to ascertain whether any of the Upper Congo natives had been sold and had travelled so far as the West Coast; I went on with my wife through this town, and presently I saw a woman whose bearing seemed to be rather singular, and as we drew nearer to her and I looked more closely at the eyebrows and at the forearm, then I tried a sentence in the native tongue on that woman. The other natives in the village realised that something more than the ordinary was happening and gathered round. I tried the one sentence, and the woman did not answer; then I tried another, and yet another; and when I had tried, I think it was,

the third, the woman started as if she had been shot, and she stared straight in front of her ; she could not realise it for the moment what had happened, then it gradually dawned on her that this was a sentence reminiscent of her home in Central Africa ; and I found that that woman came from the Upper Congo. I ask you to try and realise what it meant to that woman to be sold from man to man, until finally, when she got far away into the Angolan territory, she was sold to a white slave trader, and in turn sold on to the coast.

I had another incident very similar to that on the Island of San Thomé. We were going up what is known as the "Mother of God Road" in San Thomé, past the plantation which is known as the "City of all the Sorrows," and as we got near a plantation called the "River of Gold" we saw a



SECTION OF SLAVE QUARTERS IN REAR OF OLD SLAVE TRADER'S HOUSE,
CATUMBELLA, ANGOLA.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

group of four serviaes in the centre of a large cocoa roça. We stopped and talked to them for a little while, and as there was something very familiar about an old grey-haired man, I asked him, through my interpreter, how long he had been on the island. He said he had been there for over 30 years ; that he had been brought from the mainland, months' and months' journey from the sea ; and as I looked at this old man I thought, "You must have come from the Congo" ; then I rapped out quite a short sentence from the Kasai, and the old man seemed, for the moment, to be groping after something, and then it dawned on him, as it dawned on that woman near Katumbella, that this was a sentence which recalled his home. The demeanour of those slaves changed instantly they realised that there was

some one who really cared for their welfare, and that the questioner had come from the country from which they had been driven those long years ago, then they told us the whole pitiful story; how that behind those model dwellings on the roça, how behind that abundance of food they were receiving, there was the cruel treatment, not of the managers (because, speaking generally, the managers are humane men) but at the hands of the ganger; and then over, above and beyond all else, was that passionate longing for home and country.

The other incident occurred on Principe. We went ashore on that



MAN CARRYING HEAVY BUNDLE OF CHICOTTES
FOR USE ON PRINCIPLE ISLAND.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

island, and, as you know, very few people care to land there, because of the prevalence of sleeping sickness. I should like to mention here, incidentally, that some of the Portuguese will deny that there is flogging of the slaves on the plantations. If so, then we must ask them how it comes that, amongst other things, two bundles of whips for flogging the slaves were landed in the very same boat on which we landed on the Island of Principe. We went away up into Principe, to a plantation known as the "Beautiful View," and there I came across four young slaves and got into conversation with them, and found that of the four, two had known freedom, but the other two had

been born in slavery, and their fathers and mothers had both died in slavery. One of the four had but recently been transferred from one plantation to another, with the stock and implements. These young fellows told the same story: "Yes, our food is alright; we get clothes; but we are badly flogged." I said to the young men, "But you look fairly healthy, and you know we are told in Europe that you are never beaten." "What, white man? Never beaten?" he responded, quite angrily, and added, "Tell me, what is this?" And then he showed me a wound in the back of his head. "That," he said, "is the sort of thing we get from the ganger." Another bore the unmistakable evidences of sleeping sickness, and his life could not be prolonged a very great while. I asked these young fellows if they wanted to go home, and they replied, "White man, why do you ask us such a question? We have no hope of going home. Did you ever know a black man that did not want to go home? Why do you tantalise us by asking if we desire to go home?" I said, "I will tell you why; there are people in Europe who care for your welfare and who, if you desire your freedom, will do their utmost to secure it for you." I added, "I am here to tell you that we will do our best to get you free;" and then the spokesman turned on me and said, "White man, very soon you will be away beyond the great water there, and when you get on it you will forget all about the slaves on this island. We have nothing to live for." I replied, "Listen, and then pass the word round to the other slaves on the islands. I am going to Europe, and, God helping me, and helping the friends that are there, we will endeavour to set you free within two years." Well, ladies and gentlemen, you may say that was a rash promise to make. But I would like to put you in my place on that island; I would ask you to stand there in the roça in the Island of Príncipe, with the sleeping sickness flies buzzing all around you, with the evidence of sleeping sickness on the slaves, with their sullen, melancholy demeanour, and those poor young fellows without any hope. I would put you in my place, and ask you if you could have faced those young men, if you could have realised the fact that there were 40,000 like them. If you could realise, as I realised at that moment, that within five years 25,000 will have perished, and within ten years, the whole lot will have disappeared, I ask you whether it was a rash promise to make in your name that we will endeavour to set them free within two years? We are hopeful—my Committee is hopeful—of being able to accomplish that. We believe that, rightly appealed to, and with it sufficiently impressed upon them by the British Government, the Lisbon Government will be prepared to do its best to set those people free.

In conclusion, I would like to say this: we have secured a large number of photographs. My wife was the photographer, and I chiefly did washing and collecting of the water, which very often was extremely difficult. On more than one occasion we had to catch the water from the tornados in a sail and strain it through a pocket handkerchief in order to get

water to develop the plates. Occasionally carriers would leave the photographic materials behind. Sometimes, after we had taken great care with our pictures, the water would get in and they would be spoiled; at other times the heat would melt the gelatine. But we managed to secure about 1,000 fair photographs, and I believe 500 of them can be regarded as quite first-class pictures. We hope to take an early opportunity of giving a private exhibition to the members and friends of the Society. Then we hope to select the best of them for lectures in the autumn and winter upon the questions we have studied. If, therefore, any of you care to arrange such meetings for the autumn and winter, we shall be glad to know at an early date.

It is evident, as a result of our journeys, and the ever-increasing demands upon us for succour for native races in different parts of the world, that every member of the Society must endeavour to secure wider support for our work. There is one thing which disturbs Mr. Buxton and myself very much, and it is that the average subscription of the Society is too large. I mean that if the average is smaller it will involve a wider support, and we must obtain that wider support and that wider interest in the work which is essential to successful propaganda; and, therefore, I would appeal to those of you who are members of the Society, to endeavour to secure others who will become interested in the work; and that those of you who are not members will take away membership forms to sign. We need all your support in the vigorous work that is before the Committee, and I would ask you to do all you possibly can to make known the condition of the slaves on the islands of San Thomé and Principe. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. HARRIS, who was received with loud applause, said she would speak for a short time upon the two matters which had most impressed her during her journey, though they did not relate to the main object of her journey. The first was with reference to their visit to Southern Nigeria, where, instead of staying with the C.M.S. Mission, they found themselves the guests of a wealthy native family, who had gone out of their way to do all they could for their comfort. By their association with this family they had been able to get at the back of the black man's mind, and had seen things of which they had perhaps taken a wrong view before. Certainly information had been obtained which would otherwise have been unobtainable. As they all knew, the African was a born imitator. With the advent of the white man, the loin cloth had disappeared, and European dress had become fashionable with somewhat lamentable results. The same results have been seen in the adoption of hymn tunes for the native dances. On one occasion, at a festival, the church band had come in front of the house where they were staying and was playing the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers," to which the natives were dancing one of their own dances. The result of that exhibition was most deplorable.

As the African imitated the white man for good or for evil, it behaved

them to see that their conduct was such that they were uplifted and not degraded. They had come across many prominent coloured men who were leaders in church life, and who were looked up to by the whole of the community, but whom they found were leading such lives as would not bear the light of day. Mrs. Harris was afraid a great deal of the immorality was due to the example set by European residents; and went into detail as to the immoral state of things existing in some districts. To allow the continuance of such houses as she had drawn attention to, in a British colony, was a shameful blot on British colonisation. (Hear hear.) The girls of Lagos were now receiving a considerable education, many of the wealthy families in Lagos sending their daughters to England to be educated, with the result that on returning to their native land their aspirations were not in the direction of becoming the mistresses of white men, and to make up the deficiency women were being imported from Benin and other districts.

The other point that had stirred her was the condition of the slaves on the islands. Mrs. Harris then described a visit they had paid to one of the hospitals on a great cocoa roça. What struck her most was the awful sullen, hopeless expression she had seen on the faces of the patients, and for the first time in her life she realised what it must be to be absolutely without hope; and she could not help thinking when standing on the pier in sight of the steps they had to mount, and the gates through which they entered, a fitting inscription would be "All hope abandon, ye who enter here."

In conclusion, Mrs. Harris said that Africa teemed with wrongs, between the white man and the black, which needed to be righted. The two questions she had mentioned were questions upon which they dared not maintain silence and at the same time think they had discharged their duty towards their neighbour. (Applause.)

Sir HENRY COTTON, K.C.S.I., in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman drew attention to the magnificent services that had been rendered by him and his forbears and family in uplifting and ameliorating the conditions of the down-trodden and oppressed in all parts of the globe.

Sir Henry also extended a cordial welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Harris after their return from Central Africa and the cocoa islands.

Mr. H. W. NEVINSON, in seconding the vote of thanks, said he wished to congratulate the Committee upon the past year's work, and especially upon the work that had been carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Harris in regard to the islands of San Thomé and Príncipe and the mainland of Angola. He had some knowledge of these districts himself, but it was some six years since he was last there, and some four years since his friend, Mr. Burt, had visited the islands, therefore, what was wanted in this country was up-to-date and trustworthy information such as, he was pleased to say, Mr. and

Mrs. Harris had obtained. Previous reports as to the conditions in those places had been fully confirmed. They now knew the truth, and although there had been a certain amount of amelioration of the condition of the slaves, there was much work yet to be done. Not only had Mr. Harris been a critic, but he had suggested remedies; and Mr. Nevinson hoped that good results would accrue from the special Committee which had been appointed to go into the slave question, and that the suggested remedies would be strongly impressed upon the English and Portuguese Governments.

Sir WILLIAM BYLES, in supporting the vote of thanks, said that as a member of the Committee, he wished to add his testimony to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Harris during their recent tour.

On the vote being put to the meeting it was carried with acclamation.

THE CHAIRMAN, in returning thanks, said that it was sad to him to be reminded of the labours of the past century, and yet to know how much slavery still existed. He hoped every blessing would rest upon the labours of the Society, and something further done to diminish slavery. (Applause.)

The Congo.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

THE first despatch contained in this short White Book, published in May last, is of great importance, containing, as it does, a categorical assertion by the Belgian Minister that the Belgian Government has renounced the old system of exploitation in the Congo. The letter addressed by Sir E. Grey to our Minister in Brussels, on 18th January last, reports an interview with the Belgian Minister:—

“The Belgian Minister called on the 3rd inst., and stated that the attention of the Belgian Government had been called to a statement which Mr. Morel had more than once repeated, and which Count de Lalaing had mentioned before.

“Mr Morel had stated that the right given to the natives by the decree of March 22nd, 1910, to gather freely the vegetable products of the soil on the domanial lands had been granted only provisionally. From this Mr. Morel inferred that the reform in question could only be temporary, because the right of the State over the domain lands had been reserved in principle.

“Count de Lalaing pointed out that, if certain reservations had been made in the decree, this in no way signified an intention to return to the ancient system of the Congo State. The Belgian Government could not, he said, condemn the system of state ownership (*domanialité*) of vacant lands, which had been and was still applied by most legislative systems. But Belgium had renounced the system adopted by the Congo State of

* Africa, No 1. (1912.)

working the products ('exploitation') of those lands. She was pleased with the results of the change effected, and had no intention of reversing decisions taken after deliberate reflection."

We may hope that this valuable verbal declaration may be confirmed by a written statement on behalf of the Belgian Government, if not also by legislation.

Three despatches of this year from Consul W. J. Lamont to the Foreign Office are given, in which he deals with the Congo legislation of 1911, affecting the natives and trade. Reduction and remission of taxes on the natives was granted in a number of districts, showing a willingness on the part of the Government to ameliorate the native conditions of existence. Other laws related to restrictions on flogging, conditions of recruiting labour, and the disposal of ivory. This latter, however, offers no satisfactory settlement from the point of view of the native or the trader.

The Conventions by which the Government last year handed over its interest in the Abir Anversoise and Kasai Companies, and revoked the arrangements of 1906, securing to them a monopoly of the finest products indicate in the Consul's opinion the "reformatory trend" of the Government's policy.

In summing up the effect of these measures the Consul expresses his belief that the severest critics of the Congo administration will not deny that they indicate generally the desire of the Government to develop a standard of policy very different from the commercial *régime* of the past.

"The policy inaugurated in 1910," he writes, "has therefore, at least, as reflected in the legislative act of the Government, continued to pursue its course through 1911 along lines that make for the betterment of the Congo, its people, and its commerce."

In a despatch dealing with the Congo Budget for 1912, Consul Lamont shows that there is a decrease in the estimated proportion of revenue from forest produce as compared with last year of 8.8 per cent., and there is a very large reduction in the estimated profits of Government from conventions with trading Companies.

On the other hand, he comments on the small revenue from Customs which in all the British, French and German West African colonies constitute the mainstay of the Government's income, and the low value of imports of the Congo corresponds with the scantiness of Custom receipts. The Consul concludes that this has largely resulted from the policy of monopoly, restrictions on trade, and the operation of "exploitation en régie." He adds:—

"The opening of the Congo to Free Trade ought, if given full and adequate effect to, to reflect itself immediately in a rapidly rising Customs revenue. . . . Two-thirds of the Congo have already been opened to Free Trade, and the third and last zone will be opened on the 1st July this year.

This, however, is not regarded as likely to swell the Customs to any extent, as the revenue estimated for 1912 is the same as that estimated for 1911, and little more than that estimated for in 1906."

The excess of expenditure, ordinary and extraordinary, for 1912, over revenue is estimated at 22,971,331 francs, and this the Consul regards as "a good augury that Belgium really means to assist the colony, and to make good the financial loss sustained through her renunciation of the old *régime*."

An important memorial has been presented to the Foreign Secretary, as a result of a meeting between representatives of the Congo Reform Association and the Anti-Slavery Society, which has been signed on behalf of both these societies, and also of other bodies both religious and commercial, and by a large number of members of Parliament and other public men. The chief subject dealt with is the question of the land—the foundation stone of native liberties and native progress—and the Government are urged, in virtue of their treaty powers and in fulfilment of their solemn obligations, to press the Belgian Government for its satisfactory solution. The signatories on behalf of our Society were the President, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries.

At the same time a memorandum was forwarded to Sir E. Grey by the Anti-Slavery Society, touching certain points which could not be brought out in the joint memorial, in the following terms:—

TO RT. HON. SIR EDWARD GREY, BART., K.G., M.P., ETC.

SIR,—I am instructed by my Committee to inform you that, whilst they fully support and have co-operated in the drafting of the memorandum on the Congo question, there are features still existing in the Congo Basin which appear to us to call for the closest scrutiny, if the responsibilities of civilized Powers towards the natives are to be faithfully observed.

My Committee is watching with serious concern the prevalence of domestic slavery, the far-reaching abuses arising out of the chefferie system and certain forms of forced labour and polygamy. We do not, however, wish to urge that the existence of these regrettable features should retard British recognition of the annexation of the Congo territory, provided that the demands formulated in the memorandum are adequately met, and provided also that it is made clear that British recognition will not impair in the slightest degree the liabilities devolving upon Belgium under the conventions and treaties by which the Congo State came into existence,—treaty responsibilities which continue to bind the European Powers to watch over the moral and material welfare of the Congo natives.

I have, etc.,

TRAVERS BUXTON, *Secretary*.



YOUNG CHIEF, ARUWIMI DISTRICT.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

THE CONCESSIONS TO MESSRS. LEVER BROS.

REFERENCE has already been made to the portion of Mr. Harris' report from the Congo dealing with this subject, recently published.

The Committee has been in communication with Sir William Lever, Chairman of the Company, who kindly gave an interview to Mr. Harris and another representative of the Society for frank discussion of the difficulties felt by them. As a result the following letter was addressed to Sir W. Lever:—

13th June, 1912.

SIR,—My Committee has had under consideration the correspondence which has passed between your Directors and ourselves, with reference to the Oil Palm Concessions in the Congo—correspondence which arose out of the report of our Organising Secretaries and the questions addressed to our Society from various correspondents.

I am instructed to express to you the appreciation of my Committee for the readiness with which you have responded to our requests for information.

It is to us a matter of great regret that these Concessions have been granted, for we are of the opinion that, in principle, native rights have been violated, and that there is at least some possibility of international friction at a future date.

Whilst regretting the principle of the Concessions, my Committee considers that your determination to maintain the highest standard of treatment for the natives is most satisfactory. They understand further that your Directors are willing that in the event of possible acts of injustice being brought to the Society's notice, your firm will not only welcome the fullest enquiry but that you will be ready to co-operate in any proposals which will secure reform of any abuses which may occur.

As my Committee will be issuing to the Press the report of our Organising Secretaries, we trust it may be possible for you to give some confirmation of the last paragraph of this letter so that your reply may be issued at the same time.

I am, &c.,

TRAVERS BUXTON.

We regret to learn from Sir W. Lever's reply that he is unwilling to give the confirmation asked for in the last paragraph, and that he wholly misunderstands the attitude of the Society, declaring it to be one which is likely to do serious injury to the natives of the Congo. He goes on to say, "The spread of civilisation in the dark countries of Africa should not, and I think cannot, be arrested; and it seems to me that the quickest and most practical way of attaining that end is by the development of those countries in a reasonable and humane manner. They cannot be developed merely by hand labour, and the only way . . . is by the employment of large sums of capital."

With these sentiments our Society is, of course, in full agreement, and anyone who knows anything of its history and policy in relation to the natives of Africa will recognise how entirely wide of the mark is the criticism that the Society is "endeavouring to condemn the native to his own unaided hand labour in the development of his country."

Such a mis-statement of our aims needs no refutation, but the fear of the possibility of international friction expressed in our letter has been confirmed by what has since taken place, and concern has undoubtedly been awakened in regard to the Concessions in countries party to the treaties which forbade for all time any kind of monopoly.

South African Natives.

THE following correspondence has passed between our Society and the Colonial Office, in regard to the Commission of Enquiry into alleged

outrages by natives on white women. We regret that the Secretary of State is unable to give us any assurance of the kind that we suggested as to the composition of the Commission or its terms of reference.

7th May, 1912.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P., etc.

SIR,—The attention of my Committee has been called to the possibility of the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the allegations made of outrages committed upon white women in South Africa by natives. My Committee welcomes this proposal, and hopes that such a Commission may be appointed at an early date.

I am instructed to urge two points upon His Majesty's Government. My Committee anticipates that the composition of the proposed Commission will be such that no one will be able to criticise its impartiality, and further, it presumes that there will be some representation of the coloured races upon it.

My Committee desire especially to remind you of the frequent complaints—some in recorded documents—of the conduct of white men towards coloured women, and we hope, therefore, that the terms of reference to the proposed Commission will permit an enquiry into the whole question of sexual relations between the white and black subjects of His Majesty's dominions.

I have, etc.,

TRAVERS BUXTON,

Secretary.

DOWNING STREET,

16th May, 1912.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant with regard to the possibility of the appointment, by the Government of the Union of South Africa, of a Commission to enquire into the alleged increase in the prevalence of outrages upon white women by natives in South Africa.

2. You will since have seen from the telegraphic report which appeared in the Press, of a discussion in the Union Parliament on the subject, that General Botha has undertaken to appoint such a Commission, the composition and terms of reference of which will of course be matters for the Union Government.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) H. W. JUST.

The Secretary,

Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.

A PLEA FOR EVEN-HANDED JUSTICE.

By A. S. HARRIS.

In the course of the correspondence herein recorded on the subject of alleged outrages by South African natives on white women, reference has been made to the other side of the question, which has, not without justification, been called "The White Peril."

Mrs. Alfred Macfadyen, speaking at the Universal Races Congress in July, 1911, as the representative of 1,000 women of South Africa, said:—

"In the old days white women were absolutely safe, and they were still safe in places where the natives had not come into contact with the whites. If elsewhere they were less safe it was because the old moral sanctions had been broken down by the West. The Peril was in part the price exacted for the treatment of coloured women by white men."

Dr. W. B. Rubusana, the first native member of the South African Parliament, speaking on the same occasion, remarked that if there was a Black Peril there was equally a White Peril, but they never heard the natives' case in the Press.

Again, in a letter from the Transvaal, dated May 1st, a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, writing forcibly on the seriousness of the Black Peril, concludes with these words:—

"The justice meted out to the depraved brutes who assault our white women must in common fairness be applied to the degenerate white men who similarly attack black women. In this way will we get back to security for all."

To clamour for the removal of the one while ignoring the other means to remove the effect and leave the cause untouched; this will but breed further and more serious trouble in the direction of discontent, rising and bloodshed. Further, it is as necessary to draw the line between the natives who live respectable, well-ordered lives, and those who are the off-scouring of their race, as it is to differentiate between the white men who endeavour to uplift the African and those, all too numerous, who dishonour coloured women and are a disgrace to the white race.

In none of the African Colonies are there laws punishing white men for intercourse with coloured women, while the Statute Book is full of enactments punishing black men for intercourse with white women, even with their consent.

A case was recorded recently of a Boer farmer being acquitted in the face of the strongest evidence of guilt of outraging a native girl, while a native boy in Rhodesia, for mere solicitation of a white girl, is shot dead and the act applauded by the white community.

For a white man thus to take the law into his own hands and execute the offender on his own authority is to produce a state of no law, and is

nothing more nor less than a reversion to savagery. Inequalities like these rankle in the mind of the black man and are the cause of the very reprisals of which the whites complain.

The debauchery of their women-folk is the greatest grievance which natives have against the white man at the present time, not only in South Africa, but in other parts of the Continent controlled by Great Britain, as well as by Foreign Powers. A city of West Africa under British rule, aptly called "the Paris of the West Coast," is slowly but surely breeding trouble for the future, and as the natives rise in the social scale they will be less tolerant of the white man's vices, and their retaliation, taking one form or another, will meet with stern but not altogether merited punishment. The person of the coloured, no less than the white, woman should be inviolate, and the penalty be meted out to offenders irrespective of colour or creed.

The correspondent of the *Daily Express* wrote from Johannesburg early in May that the "Black Peril scare" was again causing almost a condition of panic in that city, and described a "drive," which occurred at a southern suburb when "400 determined men gathered together armed with revolvers, shot guns, sjamboks, whips, and sturdy branches of blue gum trees." After a few speeches, one of the men jumped up, crying out that it was time for action and not for resolutions:

"In a moment order was thrown to the winds. Dozens of revolvers were flourished, and the chairman's appeal for order fell on deaf ears.

* * * *

"A move was made for the Kenilworth plantations. All natives found abroad were subjected to a severe cross-examination.

"Three natives and a Cape boy, all provided with the requisite pass, were escorted back to their 'baas' houses, and the Cape boy, who smelt strongly of dop brandy, was recommended for and received chastisement.

"The excited crowd were looking for a black about 5ft. 6ins. high, hatted, booted, and grey suited. Every native answering to this description was stopped and examined by the angry drivers, whose blood was now thoroughly up. Natives who tried to escape received a rough handling.

"There were so many gangs abroad that any black, after refusing to submit to full inquiry, who attempted to get away, fell foul of other search parties and soon relented under the whip or sjambok.

"A running black, as may be surmised easily, was asked no questions, but laid by the heels at once. Six natives, roughly answering the description, but able to prove their innocence of any outrage, were terribly handled before the police arrived on the scene and endeavoured to calm the maddened crowd."

Then followed what is described with literal accuracy as a "negro hunt."

"In the plantation are a number of huts inhabited for the most part by natives. In one of these huts a grey-suited Kaffir was found. He had no pass, and, frightened by the armed force round the door of the hut, he attempted to escape.

"A mad chase began. He knew the neighbourhood well, and soon put a good distance between himself and his pursuers. Shots began to ring out, and the drivers grew reckless. *Several running natives, it is said, were hit, but the grey-suited Kaffir, who was innocent of all outrage, because it was discovered later that the entire affair was the outcome of a false alarm, got clear away.*"

Here we see the worst manifestations of race hatred and blood-lust, very similar to the cases of lynching reported from time to time from the Southern States, when reason and civilization are thrown to the winds and men revert to savagery. The *Rand Daily Mail* has sent a petition, largely signed, to Parliament asking for "protection for Johannesburg in particular, and the Rand in general," but it is clearly not the whites alone who need protection!

NATIVE CONGRESSES.

It is significant of the interest which the native question is exciting in South Africa, and of the vigorous movement which is going on among the natives of the sub-continent to direct attention to their disabilities and obtain improved social, political, and educational conditions, that Native Conferences have been recently held in several different parts of the country. This movement, in the opinion of the *African World*, marks an era of great importance, showing that "the native has found his feet and means to assert his power." At the beginning of the present year the African Political Organization held its annual conference at Johannesburg, when Dr. Abdurahman, the president, denounced the "colour policy" of the Union Government in unmeasured terms, and declared that, as things stood, the gulf between the races was widening, and "a clash" was imminent. Resolutions were carried demanding educational reforms and the removal of colour restrictions connected with labour, the poor laws, discrimination on railways, &c.

A few days later a South African Native National Congress was held at Bloemfontein and largely attended by delegates from all parts of South Africa, when a wide range of questions relating to land, labour, and other matters closely affecting native interests, was discussed, and it was proposed to affiliate to the Congress every native organization throughout the land. It was also resolved to send an influential deputation to Cape Town to interview the Ministry, especially in regard to the Squatters' Bill. This was duly received by Mr. Burton, who appears to have given the deputation reason to hope that their representations would be favourably considered.

At the end of February, a meeting of 700 natives, including 20 chiefs, was held at Durban, and a Natal Native Congress was formed to co-operate with the National Congress established at Bloemfontein. Mr. John Dube, of Ohlange, well-known for the excellent educational work which he is carrying on for the natives of Natal, presided over this gathering, which passed resolutions disapproving of the present native policy of Natal and praying the Government to abolish it. It was suggested that an adaptation of the Transkei system was best suited to the natives' needs, and that a Native Advisory Council should be formed to advise the Government. The withdrawal of the Squatters' Bill, and also of the regulations prohibiting assemblies of natives without permission, was asked for.

The annual Pitso, or National Council of Basutoland natives, when they have the opportunity of discussing proposed legislation and expressing their views upon it, took place in March. The paramount chief, Letsie, was absent, but is said to have declared his uncompromising opposition to Basutoland coming under the Union Government, though he foresaw that the inclusion must eventually be accomplished, and expressed the hope that the present successful administration would be continued.

More recently, in April, a largely attended congress was held in the Transkei, over which Mr. Tengo Jabavu, well-known to many in this country, presided, who spoke in favour of the elimination of the colour bar, which he held should be the cardinal policy of every native gathering. Resolutions were passed for the enforcement of Clause 147 of the Act of Union, which vests the control of native affairs throughout the Union in the Governor General in Council, and protesting against the Squatters' Bill, which indeed seems to have been condemned by every native gathering.

Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *April 18th.*

MOROCCO SLAVERY.

Mr. COWAN asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether any communications had taken place between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the French Republic regarding the abolition of the legal status of slavery in Morocco; and, if not, whether he will call the attention of the French Government to the urgent necessity of this reform.

Sir E. GREY: No recent communications have taken place between the two Governments on this subject, but the sentiments of the French Governments are known to be in harmony with those of His Majesty's Government on this point. At the Algeciras Conference, the Delegates of the Powers unanimously accepted a resolution proposed by the British Delegate to request the Sultan of Morocco to adopt measures for limiting,

and gradually abolishing slavery, and the French Delegate stated that he supported the resolution all the more readily, because French action in the Sudan and the Sahara had already contributed to arrest the practice of slavery in Morocco.

30th April.

INDIAN LABOUR AND GERMAN DIAMOND MINES.

In answer to question from Mr. DOUGLAS HALL and Mr. C. WASON,

Mr. MONTAGU said: The Imperial German Government has not as yet made any proposal to his Majesty's Government with reference to an importation of Indian labourers into German South-West Africa. Unless such a request is received it would be premature to discuss details, but speaking generally, the Secretary of State is indisposed to encourage any new scheme for indentured emigration from India to places outside the British Empire. Indentured emigration from India to German South-West Africa is not lawful, and could not become lawful unless the Governor-General of India in Council were satisfied that the Government of the country has made such laws and other provisions as he thinks sufficient for the protection of emigrants during their residence therein. In any event, no steps could be taken unless a Convention had first been concluded between the German Government and His Majesty's Government, whereby full provision was made for the supervision of the emigrants' welfare.

SIR W. BYLES asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had any official information to the effect that Indian labour was about to be recruited for the mines in German South-West Africa.

SIR E. GREY: We have heard that the Government of German South-West Africa have granted to the local Chamber of Mines permission to import from the Indian Empire 1,000 coolie emigrants for employment in the mining industry. As to whether or on what conditions the Government of India allows or is likely to allow Indian labourers to emigrate under indenture, I would refer the hon. member to the answers given by the Under-Secretary of State for India on April 30th, to the questions on this subject by the members for the Isle of Wight and for the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

May 7th.

PERU RUBBER SLAVERY.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he is now able to publish the Report of Sir Roger Casement upon the conditions of labour in connection with the Putumayo rubber industry.

SIR E. GREY: I hope to be able to publish Sir R. Casement's report very shortly, but am not yet in a position to announce the actual date, as I am consulting the Government of the United States about the publication of some communications that have passed with them.

[With this issue we introduce a new feature, under the title, "The Native in Parliament," by Our Parliamentary Correspondent. The object of it is that of elucidating somewhat the severely restricted "Questions and Answers," given in the House of Commons, which deal with the work of the Society. —ED. A.-S. Reporter.]

THE NATIVE IN PARLIAMENT.

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent.

SIR WILLIAM BYLES asked Sir Edward Grey, on May 7th, a question with reference to the report that Germany proposed recruiting coolies from the Indian Empire for work in the mines of Damaraland. Germany, like all other African Powers, finds herself short of unskilled labour and, possessing no colony with a surplus supply, is compelled to look beyond her own colonial possessions. From Sir Edward Grey's reply, it seems hardly likely that Germany will obtain the sanction of the India Office to recruit labour. The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, which is, of course, behind most of these carefully worded and adroit questions on native affairs which are put forward in the House, would undoubtedly oppose it. I understand the Society does not object to coolies leaving India for work outside their country; what they object to is the conditions of some of the contracts and the treatment of coolie labour by certain Governments. In this case they obviously cannot oppose the request on the ground of contracts which they have not yet seen, but they have not forgotten that nearly two years ago British Kaffirs were cruelly treated in this very territory; several of these labourers were murdered and others wounded, but up to the present it would appear that no compensation has been paid, neither has anyone responsible for this grave outrage been brought to trial. Until Germany has given satisfaction for this gross outrage on British subjects, she must be prepared to witness unrelenting opposition to any proposals for the recruitment of British labour.

If a Minister does not wish to answer a question, he has many traditional methods of what the Americans call "side-tracking" a man. A somewhat amusing example of this occurred when Mr. Wedgwood, having "drawn" Sir Edward Grey on a treaty question on April 24th, followed up his success on May 8th by putting a pertinent question to the Foreign Minister upon the legality of Sir William Lever's gigantic oil palm concessions in the Congo. This question had been raised in the German Reichstag, and Mr. Wedgwood asked Sir Edward Grey whether the Lever Concession was not a violation of the Congo German Convention and the Anglo-Congolese Convention? and in reply the Foreign Secretary stated that: "In principle, you cannot say that the granting of the lease is an infringement of the Berlin Act. . . ." However this may be, Mr. Wedgwood cannot be said to have obtained an answer to his question, which

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was directed, not to the Berlin Act, but to another and more powerful treaty, which was in no sense impaired by the subsequent Berlin Act.

From Sir Edward Grey's answer to Mr. Noel Buxton, it is evident that Sir Roger Casement's report will soon become public. The time of the House, however, is so fully occupied just now that I fear the cause of the wretched natives of the Putumayo will only gain a hearing through "Questions and Answers." It is fairly well known that the report of Sir Roger Casement is in many respects worse than his terrible indictment of King Leopold's rule on the Congo and the "native" group of Parliamentaries—fortunately an ever-increasing number—may be relied upon to use every means at their disposal for forcing this question to the front.

New Hebrides Abuses.

WE referred in our last issue to the fact that we had been in communication with some friends of native races in France, who have given their attention to the state of things which has been brought to our notice by missionaries and others in the islands.

A powerful article by M. Pierre Bernus appeared in a new colonial journal, *La France d'Outre Mer*, in March, entitled *L'Esclavage aux Nouvelles-Hébrides*, from which we give several translated extracts, as it states the case with great lucidity and vigour. The importance attaching to the publication of such an article in France, where this side of the case is likely to be little known or appreciated, is obvious.

"We must recognise that the Anglo-French Condominion is not working very satisfactorily. Faults have certainly been committed on both sides, and we must regret that the representatives of the two countries do not succeed in coming to an understanding in a way more conformable to the relations existing between the two Governments, and the sentiments of friendship which animate them.

"I wish I could stop here. . . . Unfortunately, I must give expression to a fact which I can assure you is not at all agreeable to affirm, viz., that after studying the question attentively, I have reached the conviction that the responsibility for this state of things rests with certain of our settlers, and that to speak quite frankly, these men are in the way to ruin, little by little, our moral situation in the Archipelago, with the tacit complicity of our authorities.

"I am well aware that these settlers affirm that the whole evil is due to the terrible English missionaries, who are always criticising them, and whose designs are of a venomous nature. It is true that the missionaries attack some of their practices in regard to the natives with no little vigour, and quite fairly they have just addressed their complaints to the English

Society for the Protection of Aborigines, which has resolved to inform its Government of them, and at the same time to appeal to French public opinion. This, at any rate, shows some confidence in our judgment.

* * * *

"What strikes me in these complaints, is, that they show no sort of systematic hostility to French influence. Their authors declare that many French settlers are entirely in agreement with them, and they add that they are the first to recognise the merits of many of the French established in the islands, but they believe that they are only fulfilling their duty in protesting against the abuses and crimes, of which the natives are victims, and to which no repression has come to put a stop.

"Confining myself to the essential points . . .

- (1) "Most of the stipulations of the Agreement of 1906 are not applied. (This is not disputed by anyone.)
- (2) "While the sale of alcohol is in principle prohibited, the population is being literally poisoned and condemned to rapid extinction. (The reporters of our Budget have made the same complaint.)
- (3) "The natives have no safeguard before the Court, whose members do not even understand their language. In criminal cases there is no defence. (This is strictly true.)
- (4) "The recruitment of native labour goes on in flagrant violation of the Convention of 1906 under abominable conditions. Slavery is in fact re-established.

"This last complaint is by far the most important. It is based upon exact facts which, if true (and alas they are), constitute an unheard of scandal, which we in France ought to be the first to stigmatise and oppose, first, for reasons of simple humanity which are quite sufficient, and secondly, from national interest.

"I propose to try and show, in a few words, under what conditions there is in the New Hebrides an actual régime of slavery.

"The great anxiety of the settlers is to recruit native labour. This becomes every day more difficult for, from a variety of causes, the population is going down. . . .

"It is very probable that if they offered the natives fair wages and assured them of humane treatment, the settlers would get the labour which they need, but the natives are treated like beasts of burden, and even this is an euphemism, for beasts of burden are taken care of. Their work is overwhelming and their wages ridiculously small, often paid in kind, contrary to the terms of the regulations. Alas! it has become nearly impossible to obtain voluntary labour and so one of the most disgusting forms of slavery has been established in order to procure labourers. The settlers equip a boat and go from island to island; sometimes by craft, and sometimes by violence they seize the native men and women whom they want. This is what the English call 'kidnapping,' or as we call it in good French '*la traite*.' Women and

young girls are forcibly taken away from their husbands or relatives and often find themselves at the mercy of the savage crews of the ships, before they are sent to the plantations. Cases of sheer violence are numerous and are established by irrefutable documents. . . .

"I will only borrow two examples from the report of M. Viollette on the Colonial Budget of 1912:—

"In December, 1910, on the coast of Malekula, a recruiter induced a tribe to come on board, gave them food and drink, and then weighed anchor and took off his cargo.

"In June, 1911, a recruiter engaged a woman, her husband and another Kanaka. To escape him the three natives ran away. The recruiter promised a reward to anyone who should bring them back. The woman, on the point of being recaptured, drowned herself, and of the two men one was struck down with blows from a gun and the other was taken and put in irons and loaded with blows."

"In truth the slave trade is re-established under most abominable conditions, and it is tolerated by the authorities, who look upon kidnapping as an offence of no importance.

"The settlers do not hesitate to ask that this shameful system should be in some way legalised.

"When taken to the plantations, the natives are there treated like slaves during the years of their pretended contract of engagement. They are detained by force, and are cruelly flogged if they try to escape. If a labourer succeeds in running away, his comrades are subjected to a long term of servitude. What difference is there between this and the slavery of old times?

"I would refer to a letter addressed to the Governor by a settler named Bonlerand, published in the last report of M. Viollette. This settler relates as an ordinary incident, how a boy having escaped, he had bound him for a whole day, and he adds, that he found out to his surprise that the hands and feet of this boy were an open wound. He strongly protests against an English missionary who accuses him of cruelty, and asks the Governor to take in hand his just plea, and to prosecute this troublesome missionary, who has exceeded all his rights in discrediting him to the natives. The details of this letter should be read, for he says that they asked him to sell the boy, to which he agreed, on the condition that another settler to whom the boy belonged consented to his sale. This letter quite frankly avows, as M. Viollette justly remarks, that the sale of natives in an ordinary transaction, or otherwise the writer would not have dared to use this term when writing to the Governor.

"The conclusion is pretty clear, that if the English missionaries have acquired with the natives a preponderating influence, the reason is that they showed themselves to be their only friends, and their courageous defenders. Are we going to allow our flag to cover any longer a régime of slavery like this?"

A well-informed correspondent recently drew our Society's attention to another abuse connected with the illegal recruitment of native women of which there have been (he wrote) so many complaints:—

“It is, I believe, the invariable practice of the French Residency to leave such native women still working with and under the control of the employer who is charged with their alleged illegal recruitment, or who at least is profiting by it, during the whole period which elapses between the receipt of the complaint by the Administration or Public Prosecutor and the final judgment of the court. Usually witnesses are at a distance, and the necessary inquiries are long. Months elapse, and during all of them the employer continues to make use of the native as if the regularity of the engagement had never been called in question. This system is a direct incentive to an unscrupulous employer to fight an untenable case to the last ditch, moreover it affords an unscrupulous employer ample time to impress the native with the necessity of giving evidence in his favour.

The Egyptian Soudan.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

LORD KITCHENER states in the introductory remarks to his report on the affairs of the Soudan for 1911 that nothing is more striking on revisiting the Soudan to-day than the great increase which has taken place in the individual prosperity of its inhabitants, and this increased prosperity, the result of careful administration, has been equally divided throughout the entire population.

“The development of the rich products of the country has been carefully fostered, and a golden harvest has thus been brought in which has remained in the country. It is, therefore, not surprising that the people are contented, happy, and loyal.”

The slave trade and slavery continue to occupy less and less space in these annual reports, and it is briefly stated in the present white paper that, “with the increased efficiency of the system of posts and patrols, the slave trade continues to decrease year by year, and it is anticipated that it will gradually cease to exist.” Forty slaves are recorded as having been captured in the Roseires district by Mr. Atterbury.

The transference of the Repression of Slave Trade Department from the Government of Egypt to that of the Soudan, which had already been notified, took place early in 1911, and Major Ravenscroft has succeeded Captain McMurdo in the post of Director.

Under the heading of “Frontier Affairs,” we are reminded that the Egyptian and French Governments have concerted measures for the

* Egypt No. 1 (1912).

suppression of the petty slave trading which still exists on the French Congo frontier. It is confidently expected that they will result in its entire abolition.

The arms traffic has called for active measures on the part of the Government, and on the eastern frontier the situation still gives cause for serious apprehension, though constant patrolling of the frontier has done much to regulate the evil. The co-operation of the Abyssinian Government is desired in order to repress the arms traffic in that country.

The population of the Soudan is estimated at about 3,000,000.

A shortage of unskilled labour in the cultivation season was again experienced, the chief difficulty of supply being for cotton picking, which is not liked by men; women and boys are chiefly employed in it. A labour bureau has proved of great value.

Slave Trade Papers.*

THIS volume of papers relating to slavery, arms, and liquor, published every year at Brussels, contains little fresh matter on subjects connected with our Society's work, and there appears to be no report this year of the proceedings of the Zanzibar Bureau. The prevalence of the dreaded sleeping sickness is sadly evidenced by the number of measures passed in regard to it by different Governments in different parts of Africa, such as the Congo, Togoland, the Gold Coast, French Equatorial Africa, Uganda, and the island of Principe.

SLAVE TRADE IN THE GULF OF ADEN.

A letter is published from the Governor of the French Somali coast to the President of the French Anti-Slavery Society, referring to a resolution of that Society urging joint action by the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Italy, in the government of their colonies, "with a view to forcing African slavery into its last entrenchments."

The Governor states that he has not had to report a single act of slave trading during the three years and-a-half that he has occupied his post. The measures which have been taken make it possible to state that caravans of slaves cannot now be sent into Arabia by way of Tadjourah, where the officials would at once report to headquarters the arrival of any caravan containing slaves.

As for traffic by sea, two vessels belonging to the local Government watch the little native sailing ships which go in and out of the Gulf of Tadjourah, and every boat which leaves the ports of Tadjourah or Jibouti must touch at Obok and give particulars of its crew and cargo. If there

* *Documents relatifs à la Répression de la Traite des Esclaves*, 1911. Brussels, 1912.

were any slaves on board they could apply for their liberty. Moreover, Italy keeps four armed vessels, with a native crew, officered by Europeans, constantly cruising about between the Straits of Babel Mandeb, the Farsan islands, and Massowah.

"You may rest assured," the letter concludes, "that the local administration will endeavour in the future, as in the past, to render impossible any attempt at slave trading on the routes leading to the Bay of Tadjourah."

THE SOUDAN-TRIPOLI SLAVE TRADE.

We find here the text of a letter from the Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa, addressed to the French Anti-Slavery Society in September, 1910, to which we referred last year. The Governor-General expressed willingness, under certain conditions, to undertake the cost of repatriating those who had been brought as slaves to Tripoli, who were proved to be natives of French territory.

The first object of the authorities, however, should be less to repair the effects of the slave trade than to prevent its practice, and various measures were being taken to that end. "It may," he wrote, "be asserted that the era of great slave-trading caravans is definitely at an end in the centre of Africa."

DOMESTIC SLAVERY IN FRENCH GUINEA.

We quote an interesting circular, which was addressed last year by the Lieutenant-Governor of French Guinea to his district officers, taking up an attitude of strong opposition to the domestic slavery customs, which, in spite of many years' endeavour to destroy the prejudices and traditions of many centuries, were found still to prevail and to be generally accepted, while in law and on paper they were supposed to have been suppressed.

"Even under the domestic form which characterises it to-day," the Lieutenant-Governor wrote, "we cannot allow the system of captivity to continue any longer; it is a matter of duty as well as of dignity to put an end to the present situation."

He continued:—

"Of course there is no question of striking a blow at the social conceptions of the races under our protection, nor of using force or compulsion to suppress in a single day a traditional organisation, which is at the same time for the populations of Guinea, an economic system with which they are contented; but we are bound by continuous action, by ever watchful activity and rigorous supervision, to hasten the emancipation of the captives—of those who submit willingly to their condition as well as those who undergo compulsion, of which we are unaware because it is never denounced to us. Henceforth, then,—and I shall resolutely adhere to this—you are to profit by every occasion which offers for making the captives understand that it is immoral for one man to possess another, that a rich man can only hire the services of another for a longer or shorter period, in the manner prescribed by ordinary contracts and by payment of wages. Whenever you or your

colleagues make a journey you are to gather the natives together and explain to them our wish. You are to endeavour to make them understand that the Koran, whose authority is invoked by their chiefs in favour of maintaining domestic slavery (*la captivité*), has, on the contrary, contributed to make the position of captives lighter and has accounted it an evil whose disappearance ought to be hastened, and you are to try and awaken in them ideas of liberty and personal human dignity. In all cases which are brought before you, you are resolutely to refuse to examine those which relate to master and slave; make them understand that for us there are no slaves, and that in justice and law we only admit the relations of employer and employee," (*patron et employé*).

"You are to follow up with the utmost rigour all crimes committed against human liberty, and to employ all the severity of the laws against barbarous masters or slave traders who are still too numerous on the frontiers of neighbouring colonies. You will not hesitate to propose to me the supersession of every chief or native agent who is determined to possess captives and make them work without pay, and the same in regard to notable natives who sit in the tribunals of the province or district, who will have to be deprived of their posts, care being taken to let the inhabitants of their village know the reason for this punishment. Every captive who appeals to your authority is to be welcomed by you and protected against every abuse of force. You will disregard every stipulation which in civil contracts, wills, etc., would postulate the condition of family captivity. . . . There are no longer any captives in Guinea,—such is the formula which must rule your conduct."

LABOUR IN PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

The Ordinance of 1911, relating to native labour and land in the Portuguese Colonies, is a comprehensive measure on paper, but judging from previous experience of such ordinances, and knowing that it is not legislation which has been lacking, but rather application of the laws, we have not much hope of these regulations being fully carried out. The Ordinance relates to labour, land, contracts (which are to be limited to two years), recruiting, etc. All male natives, with the exception of certain named classes, are declared to be under a moral and legal obligation to work, which will be enforced, though the nature of the work may be chosen. Employers are not to have the right of inflicting corporal punishment on natives, nor are they to maltreat or fetter the labourers or deprive them of food. The Ordinance contains provisions for native occupation of land, which after twenty years may be converted into freehold.

The Indians of Peru.

A RECENT article in a Peruvian newspaper discussing the aims and work of the *Asociacion Pro Indigena*, of Lima, makes some interesting, if pessimistic, remarks on the character of the Indians for whom that

association is concerned. The writer, while he holds that its generous humanitarian efforts deserve the greatest applause, is of opinion that the organization of society in Peru, the configuration of territory and the political system present serious obstacles to the success of such work.

"The Indian," he writes :—

"Has never had an autonomous personality, that notion, that is to say, of liberty and right which even in the remotest epochs of their history Latins and Saxons have had, whatever the prevailing form of Government."

Under Spanish domination, the conquered race was the object of insult and exploitation, but the Indian did gain something by contact with the Spaniard ; but :—

"Subsequently, in the democratic *régime* the Indian has continued to be the serf of old times, labouring to build up other men's fortunes. More brutalised and exploited than ever, more corrupted by alcohol, more humiliated and infected by the vices of his exploiters, he is still the same entity devoid of personality as he was before, when he knew or at least felt that his very impersonality was the strength of the social organism of which he formed a part. Fanaticised, vicious, with no aspirations for the reconstitution of his race, unadapted to civilised life, humble by the instinct of his inertia, the Indian of to-day, held down by his vassalage, is in the condition of one sick of an incurable malady. In this sense the work of the *Pro Indígena* is the work of a philanthropy so much the more generous and praiseworthy as no great hopes of success can rationally be maintained. The society finds perhaps the greatest obstacles to the fulfilment of its mission in the very individuals over whom it seeks to extend the mantle of its protection."

The article concludes with the pessimistic remark that the question is not so much that of the protection of the natives as of the education of the ruling classes, who must be taught the principles of respect for mankind, whatever its condition, which appears to the writer a lesson that they will never learn.

Southern Nigeria.

NATIVE HOUSE RULE ORDINANCE.

THIS Ordinance has now been amended to the extent of adding a section whereby members of houses may, by payment of a sum of money, redeem themselves from the obligations of native law and custom. The District Commissioner is to fix the amount payable, which is in no case to exceed £50, and in the case of "persons of the labouring class or canoe boys" shall not exceed £15, and he will thereupon discharge the member either on its payment in a lump sum or the giving of security for payment by instalments.

It is laid down that all claims and privileges of membership of a house, including part ownership of property, real and personal, are forfeited by those who take advantage of this new clause, though they will be entitled to retain and remove all their own personal property.

We are glad that this provision has been made for the slaves under certain conditions to secure the freedom, but it is not clear what happens to the wives and children of those who redeem themselves. Do they still remain bound by the Ordinance, and what becomes of any property acquired by them?

Lynching in the United States.

IT will be remembered that a peculiarly horrible case of lynching was reported from Coatesville, Pennsylvania, in August last. It is sadly significant of the state of public opinion, even in a Northern State, on matters where race and colour are concerned, that all attempts to obtain a conviction against the men involved in the murder of the negro victim have failed, and the endeavour of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania to obtain a change of venue to the Supreme Court of the State was likewise unsuccessful.

The following is an extract from the formal petition of the Attorney General:—

“That the hostile public sentiment in Chester County toward the efforts of the Commonwealth to identify and punish the murderers of Zachariah Walker has been evidenced in divers ways, and without cessation, ever since the investigations of the Commonwealth began. When the defendants, Stoll and Swartz, were acquitted, unseemly and boisterous demonstrations of approval of the verdicts were indulged in even within the Court-house. The hostility of the public toward the officers charged with the administration of the law and the maudlin sympathy exhibited for the defendants on trial were carried to such extremes that at one stage the trial Judge felt called upon to denounce these manifestations as disgraceful and disgusting. It is generally and confidently predicted throughout Chester County that the Commonwealth never can secure in that county the conviction of any person implicated in the lynching.”

The extracts which follow from the presentment of the Grand Jury of the County show that the circumstances reported to have accompanied the lynching were in no way exaggerated:—

“Throughout the whole course of our enquiry we have been hampered and obstructed by the attitude of the citizens of Coatesville and vicinity having knowledge of the commission of the crime and the identity of the criminals. At least two hours before the actual burning of the negro the rumour passed from lip to lip, throughout the Western portion of the Borough of Coatesville, that on that quiet sabbath evening a mob would take a

wounded negro then in the custody of the law and confined in the Coatesville Hospital out of that institution and lynch him. Forthwith the citizens of that portion of Coatesville assembled themselves for the purpose of witnessing a crime so shocking and horrible in its details that it is almost inconceivable that enough men could be found in any civilized community, and much less within the confines of our Commonwealth and County, to stain their hands with its perpetration. Strodes Avenue soon became congested with the crowd to the number of more than one thousand, among which crowd, we regret to say, were not a few women. These people gathered on the streets as if assembling for a holiday occasion, and although many individuals in this crowd subsequently witnessed the entrance of the mob into the hospital, the dragging forth of the wounded and helpless victim, and his horrible death on the burning pile of rails and straw, these people have appeared before us and upon their oaths have stated that they cannot tell the name of a single one of the active participants in the commission of this crime The testimony we have taken clearly demonstrates that immediately after the commission of the crime a conspiracy of silence was formed and the citizens of Coatesville who have knowledge which would assist in the administration of the law have deliberately concealed that knowledge and have refused to aid the officers of the law and this grand inquest in its administration."

Then after a description of the violent seizing of the negro from the hospital in which he was a patient and the determination to burn him alive, is added:—

"Upon several different occasions the negro leaped from the burning pile, but was hurled back again by his murderers. From time to time fuel was added to the flames until the life of the victim became extinct. In this horrible manner a human life was taken by the citizens of Chester County without the shadow of an excuse, and we were unable to find any evidence that from the time the negro was dragged out of the hospital until his body became a cinder, a single voice was raised in protest against this terrible deed or a finger raised to save him."

A correspondent writes:—

"One man was put on trial, and although he confessed guilt before the trial, and others testified as to the part he took in the lynching in the most positive way, yet the jury brought in a verdict of 'not guilty,' although practically no testimony whatever was given in the man's favour."

The Judge, in announcing the discontinuance of the prosecutions, made a scathing address to the jury as to the miscarriage of justice. Their verdict impressed him as a great calamity from the standpoint of law and order, for "the evidence presented by the Commonwealth absolutely demonstrated the defendant's guilt." The lynching had taken place under more horrible details than any he had ever heard of. Yet, for some reason that he was entirely unable to understand, there was a sentiment in the county, "a general sentiment, utterly opposed to the prosecution and conviction of anybody and everybody who took part in this horrible affair." He concluded by saying:—

"A criminal court is obviously powerless where juries are unable, by reason of a controlling sentiment, to dispose of cases according to the law and the evidence; and when it is clearly demonstrated that a sentiment exists which will not permit a conviction, and a change of venue cannot be secured, nothing remains but to stop."

Slave Holding in Morocco.

By a letter received from the Foreign Office, dated 14th March last, we learnt that a despatch had been received from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier in regard to the holding of slaves by British *protégés* in Morocco. Mr. White stated that he was not aware of any person under British protection holding a slave; but there might be some cases in the interior of slaves being held by "semsars" without the consular officers knowing it. Mr. White was stated to be addressing a circular to British consular officers in Morocco reminding them of the rule that no person under British protection may hold slaves.

In accordance with the suggestion of Sir E. Grey, Mr. Mackenzie was asked to supply, and did supply, particulars of cases in which he believed that British as well as other European *protégés* were not only financing slave dealers, but, in two cases at least, actually holding slaves.

On this subject we notice an article in *L'Afrique Libre*, the journal of the Anti-Slavery Society in France, in which it is stated that a great number of persons protected by Germany, England and France hold slaves, and that they had never been forbidden to do so as a condition of their obtaining protection. This seems a difficult statement to accept as regards British *protégés*.

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